

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] FIG. 2 shows a first exemplary embodiment of the prosthesis 10 in a "rolled out" configuration. As shown, adjacent unit segments 22 in FIG. 2 are connected together using both beams 24 and expansion joints 26. Pairs of expansion joints 26 are aligned in a circumferential direction with the illustrated prosthesis 10 shown to have five groups of expansion joints 26 spanning a successive space between adjacent unit segments 22. Each such group of expansion joints 26 is rotationally staggered with respect to the next group so that individual expansions joint 26 in each successive group do not overlap in axial direction. As shown in FIG. 2, these beams 24 and expansion joints 26 are not necessarily aligned longitudinally. In this embodiment, only one beam 24 is used per connection between adjacent unit segments 22. This maximizes longitudinal flexibility while providing compensation for longitudinal foreshortening. Further, the beams 24 are in a "laddered" configuration where adjacent beams are laterally (representing the circumferential direction) and longitudinally staggered, with a predetermined amount of longitudinal overlap as shown in FIG. 2 and in a second exemplary embodiment in FIG. 11. The overlap is preferably at least one-third, more preferably about one-half of the length of the beams 24 when the prosthesis 10 is in a collapsed configuration. Advantageously, positioning beams 24 in a laddered configuration results in a spiralling connecting pattern when the prosthesis is seen in its typical cylindrical configuration. This connecting pattern enhances the transverse flexibility of the prosthesis by distributing the single beams around the circumference of the device.